

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0387

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, IAEA, TECH, UR

SUBJECT: NEW TIMES ON PNE'S

1.SUMMARY: THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE NEW TIMES HAS PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE PLACING THE SOVIET UNION FOURSPUARE#BEHIND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND USE ON PNE'S. IT MAY BE INTEDED TO TAKE ISSUE WITH INDICATIONS IN OTHER PUBLICATION THAT USE OF PNE'S SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY WITH CONSIDERABLE CAUTION UNTIL FURTHER STUDY OF THEIR EFFECTS HAS BEEN COMPLETED. END SUMMARY.

2. NOVOE VREMYA ARTICLE JANUARY 10 IS AT VARIANCE WITH RECENT EXPRESSION OF RESERVATION ON USEFULNESS OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. (THESE WERE THE TOMILIN ARTICLE IN THE NOVMEBER 74 ISSUE OF MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN; AND A BRIEF ITEM IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON JANUARY 3 CRITICIZING U.S. AUTHORITIES FOR CONTINUING WITH RIO BLANCO PROJECT IN FACE OF PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO POSSIBLE SAFETY HAZARDS.) THE ARICLE, BY I. DMITRIYEV, EXPLAINS THE MANY USES TO WHICH PNE'S CAN BE PUT,AND ADMITS THAT "A SERIES OF QUESTIONS" REMAIN TO BE SOLVED ON CONTROLLING THE ENERGY OF SUCH
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EXPLOSIONS AND ON LESSENING SEISMOLOGICAL AND RADIOACTIVE

EFFECTS. DMITRIYEV QUICKLY PROCEEDS TO EXPLAIN AWAY POSSIBLE SEISMOLOGICAL AND RADIOACTIVE DANGERS, HOWEVER. HE NOTES THAT SEISMOLOGICAL EFFECTS ARE SUFFICIENTLY PREDICTABLE TO DETERMINE IN ADVANCE WHETHER USE OF A PNE IS FEASIBLE. AND HE EXPLAINS THAT, THOUGH EXCAVATION SHOTS DO POSE PROBLEMS WITH RADIOACTIVITY WHICH DO NOT ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH CAVITY SHOTS, EVEN IN THEIR CASE SUFFICIENT PROTECTION CAN BE ASSURED BY SETTING UP SAFETY ZONES. OUTSIDE THESE ZONES EXPOSURE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE BELOW ALLOWABLE DOSES AS DETERMINED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION FROM RADIOACTIVITY.

3. DMITRIYEV BRINGS LTBT INTO DISCUSSION, BUT NOTES THAT PROVISION ON PROHIBITION ON THE SPREAD OF RADIOACTIVE PRECIPITATION ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A NECESSARY ADDITIONAL LIMITATION TO BE OBSERVED DURING CARRYING OUT OF PNE'S, AND NOT SOMETHING EXCLUDING THEIR USE." HE CONTINUES THAT ARTICLE FIVE OF THE NPT, ON THE OTHER HAND, "MAKES PROVISION...FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF USE OF PNE'S." THE SOVIET UNION, A SIGNATORY TO THE NPT, TREATS RESPONSIBLY ITS OBLIGATIONS FLOWING FROM ARTICLE V.... THE SOVIET UNION WILL IN THE FUTURE AS WELL ACTIVELY DEVELOP THE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL USE OF PNE'S FOR CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSES, THUS PROMOTING THE FULFILLMENT OF ARTICLE V OF THE NPT." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE IN ORDER TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF PNE'S, AND RECOMMENDS THAT IAEA SHOULD DEVELOP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PNE'S.

4. DMITRIYEV NOTES THAT IN THE PAST, THREE TECHNICAL CONSULTATION MEETINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN SOVIET AND U.S. SPECIALISTS, DURING WHICH, INTER ALIA, SAFETY STANDARDS FOR RADIOACTIVITY WERE DISCUSSED. HE CONTENDS THAT THE U.S. AND SOVIET SPECIALISTS "UNANIMOUSLY" CONCLUDED, AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS ON CERTAIN CONCRETE PROJECTS, THAT PROSPECTS FOR USE OF PNE'S WERE FAVORABLE.

5. COMMENT: THOUGH WE ARE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE AUTHOR, THE ARTICLE ITSELF OBVIOUSLY REFLECTS THE VIEW OF THE STATE COMMITTEE ON UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY, AND COULD WELL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY MOROKHOV HIMSELF. THE ARTICLE IS ACTUALLY SOMEWHAT OUT OF PLACE IN NOVOYE VREMYA. THE MAGAZINE DOES APPEAR IN AN ENGLISH EDITION, HOWEVER, AND THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE WANTED IT TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO DELEGATES TO THE IAEA MEETING BEGINNING JANUARY 20.
STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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